

COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock County Administrator

Beth Gabor Manager of Operations & Strategy 625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695 (530) 666-8042 • FAX (530) 668-4029 www.yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 9, 2017 Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer (530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

Transform Your School Year with a Library Card During Library Card Sign-up Month

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County Library is joining with the American Library Association and libraries nationwide this September for Library Card Sign-up Month; an initiative to make sure that every student has the most important school supply of all – a free library card. The value of today's libraries goes beyond books. Libraries help people of any age find what they need to help improve their quality of life.

Library staff will be attending Back to School nights throughout the county to provide information about the library and its services and sign students and their families up for library cards. Every person who signs up for a library card during the month of September will receive a free book bag. If a library card is absent from your collection, you can also come by any of the following branches to receive your free passport to information and learning:

- Arthur F. Turner Community Library, 1212 Merkley Avenue in West Sacramento
- Clarksburg Branch Library, 52915 Netherlands Avenue in Clarksburg
- Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library, 315 E. 14th Street in Davis
- Harper Junior High School (temporary location), 4000 E. Covell Boulevard in Davis
- Esparto Regional Library, 17065 Yolo Avenue in Esparto
- Knights Landing Branch Library, 42351 Third Street in Knights Landing
- Winters Community Library, 708 Railroad Avenue in Winters
- Yolo Branch Library, 37750 Sacramento Street in Yolo

"Our library provides access and programs for students of all ages," says Yolo County Library Early Learning Coordinator Laura Benn. "There is something for everyone and it is all free with a library card."

Early literacy resources and storytimes are offered at all eight branch libraries to encourage school readiness for children ages 0-5 and their families. The education of older children and teens is supplemented with science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) based-programs; homework help services; and the encouragement of reading success with the read to a therapy dog programs. The libraries also provide GED resources, including online test preparation resources, for nontraditional students.

Libraries build a foundation for children's future success starting from the earliest stages of development. Librarians play a key role in helping children develop the basic tools for school readiness by teaching families the components of early literacy. Older students can also find tools for success at

their local libraries, where they can access high-speed Internet and digital tools, as well as work with trained professionals on how best to use these resources.

As new technologies evolve, libraries continue to lead the way in providing equity of access to digital tools and media, which has become increasingly important in high-poverty areas where students are less likely to have a computer or internet service at home. One way Yolo County Library is trying to bridge the digital divide is by offering mobile Wi-Fi hotspots and chromebooks for 7-day loan. The library also provides free access to high-speed internet both wirelessly and on computers, and offers technology assistance and computer classes at various locations.

All programs and services are free and do not require registration unless noted. The Yolo County Library supports lifelong learning and access to information. For more information about the Yolo County Library, visit: <u>www.yolocountylibrary.org</u> or connect with the library on Facebook at: <u>www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org</u>.

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